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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [PREF](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: MEDIA ATTENTION, JULY 16-31, 2004

1. (U) In response to G/TIP inquiries about anti-TIP public information campaigns, post provides as examples the following TIP press reports. Text of articles not published in English is provided through unofficial local FSN translation or otherwise noted sources.

2. (U) Published July 28, 2004 by Turkey's Anatolian News Agency:

TITLE: SECURITY FORCES INTERCEPT 137 MIGRANTS IN DIDIM
BEGIN TEXT: DIDIM (A.A) - Security forces intercepted 137 migrants in Didim town of western province of Aydin on Wednesday as they were trying to proceed to Sisam island of Greece illegally. The migrants of Azerbaijani, Mauritanian, Algerian, Moldavian, Afghan and Somalian origin were taken into custody for violating Turkish borders and passport law. They will be deported once the legal proceedings are completed. END TEXT.

3. (U) Published July 27, 2004 by Turkey's Anatolian News Agency:

TITLE: Ankara Police Department Morals Branch conducts operations in Ankara and Afyon.

BEGIN TEXT: Four people involved in human trafficking and four others who were subjected to trafficking were detained.

After receiving a tip by phone, the Ankara Police raided a house in the Seyranbaglari district of Ankara. Recep C., and two women were detained. One woman was a foreigner and the other was a Turk of foreign origin. Police had already issued a warrant for Recep C. for human trafficking.

During his interrogation Recep C. told the police that he "bought" foreign women for \$2000 from Samil D. who is known as "Ahmet" in Antalya. Later Recep C. talked to Samil D. on the phone and they agreed to meet in Afyon. Three policemen accompanied Recep C. and they went in front of a store outside Afyon on the Antalya road.

Police detained Samil D., Murat O. and Hakan K. They had two Moldavian women accompanying them. They, too, were detained. Recep C., Samil D., Murat O. and Hakan K. were sent to a prosecutor on charges of human trafficking.

Three foreign women were turned over to the TNP Foreigners' Department. The Turkish woman of foreign origin was released. END TEXT.

4. (U) Published July 24, 2004 by Moldova's Chisinau Basapress in English:

TITLE: Turkey Main Destination for Trafficked Moldovan Women

BEGIN FBIS TRANSCRIBED TEXT: Chisinau, 24 July: The Moldovan Interior Ministry said that Turkey remains the main destination for traffickers in Moldovan women.

According to ministerial accounts the Moldovan police have destroyed 37 channels of trafficking in persons in the first half of this year, of which 11 connected Moldovan networks with pimps and brothels in Turkey, 10 in the United Arab Emirates, seven in the Russian Federation, four in Macedonia, and five in Romania.

The Moldovan Interior Ministry announced that a Turkish national and a Russian citizen suspected of recruiting Moldovan women for the prostitution industry have been recently detained in Chisinau. A court in Chisinau has sentenced the Turkish national to five years in prison for pimping.

The police have filed 287 cases related to the trafficking in persons, including 28 cases related to recruitment of children for slavery.

Neither the Moldovan government nor nongovernmental organizations have exact data regarding the number of Moldovan women forced into prostitution abroad.

The International Organization for Migration had earlier said that over 1,200 victims of traffickers in human beings had been repatriated to Moldova in the past three years. This year, 143 Moldovan young women returned home after years or months of slavery in Russia, Turkey or the United Arab Emirates. END TEXT. [Description of Source: Chisinau Basapress in English - Independent news agency; carries economic and political reports from pro-Romanian positions]

15. (U) Published July 21, 2004 by Turkey's Anatolian News Agency:

TITLE: TURKISH GENDARMERY ARREST 23 ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS IN IZMIR

BEGIN TEXT: IZMIR (A.A) - Turkish gendarmerie arrested 23 illegal immigrants in Cesme in Izmir province, sources said on Wednesday.

Security forces captured 23 Pakistanis who entered Turkey clandestinely en route to Greece. They will be deported following legal proceedings, officials said. END TEXT.

16. (U) Published July 19, 2004 by Bishkek Public Educational Radio and TV in Russian:

TITLE: Kyrganistan Border Guards Receive Security Training From Turkish Officers

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED EXCERPT: [Presenter] Military exercises entitled "Border Security" started at the base of the Border Service's training center under the [NATO] Partnership for Peace program today.

The maneuvers are being conducted in two stages. Georgia, Azerbaijan, Romania, Albania and Macedonia attended the first stage held in March. Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are taking part in the second stage. A mobile group of Turkish officers is conducting the exercises.

[Correspondent] For 10 days _Kyrgyz_ officers will be improving their skills in protecting the country's borders under the Turkish officers' supervision. The Turkish officers first taught our border guards computer skills and Internet use. They also taught the commanders how to distinguish genuine passports from forged ones.

[Nuriddin Chomoyev] deputy chairman of the _Kyrgyz_ Border Service] Border security will be considered as specific issues. These are border trespassing, human trafficking and drug trafficking. I think that during this seminar our officers will get profound theoretical knowledge and will put it into practice.

[Correspondent] There are other issues on the agenda, which are regarded as pressing according to international standards. These are aspects of the national security system, protection and control of refugees and international terrorism. The mobile group of the Turkish armed forces held the first stage as far back as in spring. END TEXT.

17. (U) Published July 19, 2004 by Turkey's news television NTV:

TITLE: Prostitution rife in Turkey: Report

BEGIN TEXT: One in every 350 Turkish women faces the threat of having to work in the sex sector or of being sexually exploited.

July 19 - Though prostitution is legal in Turkey, most of the women working in the industry are not registered and many are forced to ply their trade against their will, according to a report released on the weekend.

According to a study conducted by the Ankara Chamber of Commerce (ATO), there are approximately 100,000 women involved in the sex trade in Turkey, with the trade generating some \$3.0 to \$4.0 billion annually. However, the ATO report claimed that only 3,000 of the female sex workers were employed legally in Turkey's 56 registered brothels, with another 12,000 registered to work outside the brothel system.

The ATO report, entitled "Lifeless Women", claims that there could be up to 100,000 women involved in the sex trade, with at least 30,000 waiting to work in the

brothels of Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara. Many of these women work on the streets, as they are not able to gain the protection of working in a registered brothel.

There are an estimated 6,000 women working illegally as prostitutes in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir alone, the report said.

There are at least 500 child sex workers in Istanbul alone, with some as young girls as 12 working as prostitutes, the report said.

Most of the child sex slaves are primary school graduates. Sex workers are mostly driven to prostitution by their husbands (30 percent), and by their parents (10 percent).

The ATO survey says that many sex workers are subject to abuse, oppression, and condemnation. Poverty is main reason that women enter prostitution, the report said.

Apart from Turkish women in the sex industry the ATO report said there were sex workers from Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Belarus engaged in prostitution in the country. Unlike their Turkish colleagues, many of these women are well educated.

Sinan Aygun, the chairman of the ATO, said that the spread of the unregulated sex market was due to a decade of lax administration on the part of state authorities.

The best way to provide an alternative for women in the sex trade would be to offer them the chance to gain employment in other sectors, Aygun said. This would require the provision of education and assistance to the poor including social security in order to help women avoid being forced into prostitution, he said.
END TEXT.

18. (U) Published July 19, 2004 by Turkey's Cihan News Agency:

TITLE: 321 Thousand 805 Crimes Committed In Turkey In 2003

BEGIN TEXT: ANKARA (CIHAN) - A total of 321,805 crimes were committed in Turkey last year, according to a survey by the Ankara Chamber of Commerce.

The number of crimes committed in the first five months of 2004 hit 143,924. The year-end prediction is 350,000. There has been a remarkable increase in robbery, picking pocketing, purse snatching, car robbery, bank robbery, kidnapping, extortion, looting and vandalism, encroachment, arson, forgery, murder, violent assaults, rape, gambling, bribery, human trafficking, sexual exploitation and other crimes.

In 2001, 299,589 crimes were recorded; in 2002, nearly 296,000 crimes were recorded; and in 2003, 321,805 crimes were committed in Turkey. Every two minutes, one malicious act is committed in Turkey.

There has been an increase in economically motivated crime. In 2003, 152,505 such crimes were committed.

According to the report, 135,898 crimes were committed in the three most populous cities: Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara. In Istanbul, 226 crimes were committed daily last year. In Ankara, 85 were committed daily and 62 a day were reported in Izmir.

Last year, nearly 8,200 work locations were robbed in Istanbul. Ankara was the victim of 2,848 robberies and Izmir 2,871 recorded such events. The lowest number of robberies took place in Bayburt with 10.

The largest increase was recorded in purse snatching which is currently being debated within the government.

Most home robberies took place in Istanbul last year with 10,195. Istanbul was followed by Ankara with 2,884. The lowest number of home robberies occurred in Tunceli with just 5 incidents last year.

In 2003, 2,277 robberies took place in state buildings.

Istanbul is a center for car robberies with 16,665 last year. Istanbul was followed by Izmir with 1,711. In 2003, 24,616 cars were robbed across Turkey. The corresponding figure for 2002 was 20,095. No cars were robbed in Kars, Tunceli or Igdir.

The most widespread crimes are pick pocketing and purse snatching. In 2002, 12,595 and in 2003, 12,793 pick

pocketing and purse snatching incidents took place in Turkey. In the first five months of 2004, the figure stands at 6,333.

Again Istanbul and Izmir top the listing in terms of snatching and pick pocketing. The numbers are successively 5,175 for Istanbul, and 2,430 for Izmir. Last year, no incidents of purse snatching or pick pocketing were recorded in the northern city of Sinop.

The latest trend is the robbery of antique carpets and similar historic pieces and precious artifacts from museums.

Last year, 3,736 incidents of armed robbery were recorded in Turkey. Again Istanbul comes in first with 1482 incidents and 295 incidents in Antalya. END TEXT.

19. (U) Published July 8, 2004 by Turkey's Anatolian News Agency:

TITLE: 'OPERATION ANKARA' IN US' LONG ISLAND ARRESTS
TURKISH NATIONALS

BEGIN TEXT: US federal, state and local law enforcement agents raided dozens of businesses within the northeastern state of Long Island on Tuesday and arrested dozens of people on money laundering and immigration charges, reported US daily Newsday yesterday. While seven suspects were charged with laundering, four others were cited for immigration violations. According to Newsday, some 57 suspected undocumented aliens were taken into custody during the raids, part of a crackdown called 'Operation Ankara,' so named because most of the suspects are believed to be Turkish nationals. /All Papers/. END TEXT

10. (U) Published July 7, 2004 by the Associated Press:

TITLE: Long Island Sweeps Bring Charges Of Money
Laundering, Immigration Violations

BEGIN TEXT: GARDEN CITY, N.Y. -- Federal, state and local law enforcement agents raided dozens of businesses around Long Island on Tuesday and arrested people on money laundering and immigration charges.

Arrest warrants were unsealed against 11 defendants. Seven were charged with laundering as much as \$28 million in proceeds from dozens of gas stations and mini-markets over several years. Four others were cited on immigration charges: One man was accused of re-entering the United States after being deported, while three others were charged with marriage fraud.

"They are all part of the same organization," said Martin Ficke, special agent in charge for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau.

He said the investigation was still in the early stages and more arrests were likely.

During the raids, part of a crackdown called Operation Ankara, immigration officials also took into custody 57 suspected undocumented aliens. There were suspicions that the aliens were smuggled into the United States and forced to work for the operators of the gas stations as repayment for entry into the country, Ficke said.

The raids, which involved an estimated 200 law enforcement agents, also yielded massive amounts of documents and business records linked to the operation.

The suspects were arraigned on various charges at U.S. District Court in Central Islip. Five of the seven defendants in the money laundering case were ordered held until a bail hearing on Thursday; the remaining two have yet to be arrested.

Two of the four immigration violation defendants have been taken into custody; one was ordered held until a bail hearing Thursday and the other was released on a \$50,000 personal recognizance bond, said Joseph Conway, the assistant U.S. attorney in the Central Islip office.

The investigation was named Operation Ankara, after the capital of Turkey, because most of the suspects are believed to be Turkish nationals. Conway said the arrests were not related to terrorism.

The money laundering charges are tied to a scheme called "structuring," said Joseph Foy, a spokesman for the Internal Revenue Service. The suspects made bank

deposits of less than \$10,000 to evade federal currency reporting requirements, prosecutors said. END TEXT.

11. (U) Published July 7, 2004 by Turkey's NTV News Station:

TITLE: New York raids target alleged Turkish money laundering ring; Five of the seven Turks, considered by police to be the ringleaders of the group were arrested.

BEGIN TEXT: July 7- New York police have conducted a series of raids of petrol stations around the city targeting what officials described as an organised Turkish crime ring involved in concealing millions of dollars and smuggling in illegal workers. The ring allegedly controlled up to 140 petrol stations, mainly in the Long Island region, used in part as a front for their criminal activities, officials said.

The group had hidden tens of millions of dollars in receipts and illegally smuggled workers into the country, the officials said. Five of the seven Turkish men wanted in connection with the ring were arrested in the raids. The other two may still be in Turkey, according to officials.

"This is a big step in shutting down an organisation that has been responsible for smuggling immigrants into the country and collecting millions of dollars illegally," Laura Hedyweiller, the head of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Long Island told reporters. END TEXT.

12. (U) Published July 7, 2004 by New York Newsday:

TITLE: Gas stations raided in alleged crime ring
BEGIN TEXT: Dozens are targeted as officials say Turkish organized crime ring hid millions in cash, smuggled in workers; By Robert E. Kessler
Staff Writer; Staff writers Mitchell Freedman and Indrani Sen contributed to this story.

Hundreds of federal agents and police yesterday raided dozens of Long Island gas stations allegedly controlled by a loosely organized network of Turkish organized crime figures, officials said.

The ring concealed tens of millions of dollars in receipts and illegally smuggled workers into the country, the officials said.

Among those arrested were five of seven key figures in the ring, which allegedly controlled more than 140 gas stations on Long Island, and more than 50 employees who are suspected of being illegal immigrants. The other two alleged leaders were still being sought and may be in Turkey, officials said.

"This is a big step in shutting down an organization that has been responsible for smuggling immigrants into the country and collecting millions of dollars illegally," said Laura Hedyweiller, head of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Long Island.

The immigrants were being interviewed late yesterday to determine their status, Hedyweiller said. Many of the employees lived under arduous conditions, working 14- to 18-hour days and sleeping on cots in the gas stations as they paid off the \$10,000 fees they were charged to be smuggled into the country, officials said.

The agents also seized several current bank accounts containing \$2.2 million at several branches on Long Island the gang allegedly used, officials said.

The five people arrested were charged with "structuring" more than \$14 million in the past three years, violating a law that makes it a crime to break down large cash deposits into multiple smaller deposits of less than \$10,000. Cash deposits of more than \$10,000 must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service under a law aimed at finding the profits of criminal enterprises such as tax evasion or drug dealing, said Joe Foy, a spokesman for the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

Arrested yesterday and charged with structuring were: Turhan Ak, 44, of 5 Miller Farm Dr., Miller Place; Ahmet Cayan, 32, of 95 Central Ave., Port Jefferson Station; Adil Bayat, 41, 4 Cobblestone La., Lake Grove; Yaha Bayat, 39, of 2 Wisteria Dr., Lake Grove; and Orhan Alparslan, 44, Rugby Dr., West Shirley.

Still being sought were Sukru Akkaya, 42, also of 5 Miller Farm Dr., Miller Place, and Mustafa Catalbas, 41 of 9 Casey La., Mount Sinai.

The raids were conducted jointly by the IRS and immigration enforcement, along with 100 Nassau and Suffolk police officers.

Initial raids were carried out at three gas stations that officials said in court documents were cash collection points for the ring and where the leaders had their offices. They are a Citgo station at 1099 Horseblock Rd. in Farmingville and two Delta stations, at 305 Union Blvd. in West Islip and 624 Broadway in North Amityville.

Court documents filed by federal prosecutors Joseph Conway and Mark Lesko said cash from all the gas stations controlled by the ring was brought daily to the three collection stations. It was then broken down into amounts under \$10,000 and deposited in several bank branches.

Two of the principal bank branches where agents seized money yesterday were a Washington Mutual Branch in Port Jefferson and an HSBC branch in West Babylon. Spokesmen for both banks said they were cooperating with investigators.

The structuring charges are the initial part of the investigation and officials are also looking into money laundering, tax evasion and smuggling charges, sources close to the investigation said.

In one raid yesterday, a dozen unmarked cars filled with federal agents went into the Farmingville gas station and blocked all of its driveways. Agents swarmed out, seized two men and began to go through the station's records.

A resident who gave only his first name, Scott, said he lived in the area for 14 years. "Seven or eight years ago, they really rebuilt the place," he said. "It was a dumpy little gas station before that." Scott said that at one point years ago, immigrants were living in trailers behind the gas station. "Good for them," he said of the federal officials.

The five suspected ringleaders were arraigned before U.S. Magistrate James Orenstein at U.S. District Court in Central Islip and held without bail pending future hearings. If convicted of the structuring charge the defendants face up to 10 years in prison.

Ahmet Cayan's attorney, John Andrews of Port Jefferson, declined to comment.

A woman who identified herself as a family friend at the home of Ak and Akkaya declined to comment on their families' behalf. Relatives of the other suspects could not be reached for comment.

Also arrested yesterday was a Yonkers woman, Natalia Sanchez, 30, who was charged with staging marriages with four Turkish gas station workers so they could fraudulently obtain citizenship. Sanchez was released on \$50,000 bail by Orenstein. The four people she had married are being sought, officials said.

Staff writers Mitchell Freedman and Indrani Sen contributed to this story. END TEXT.

13. (U) Published July 6, 2004 by the International Organization for Migration:

BEGIN TEXT: MOLDOVA - New Migration Information Centre - IOM has launched a new, multimedia summer campaign, as part of its Migration Information Project, to provide Moldovan citizens comprehensive information about going abroad and the dangers of trafficking.

Working with the Moldovan Migration Department, IOM is creating the first ever Centre for migration information in Moldova. The Centre opened with a website www.migratie.md and a mobile information centre/minibus that will travel across Moldova.

The Centre will also be closely linked with the national toll-free Hotline (0-800-77777) operated by the IOM partner NGO La Strada. IOM personnel, Migration Department representatives and student volunteers will staff the migration bus. They will distribute leaflets containing facts on countries of destinations, such as Italy, Portugal, Turkey and Russia, as well as details about obtaining visas, legal work and study opportunities and the dangers of trafficking. They will also be conducting interviews and gathering opinions about the needs for migration

information.

"With this project, IOM is providing reliable and objective information about legal opportunities for those who have decided to go abroad," said IOM Chief of Mission Marielle Sander-Lindstrom. "Our goal is to ensure that those who have decided to go abroad do so legally, protect themselves against those who offer fraudulent offers and most of all, guard against the dangers of human trafficking and exploitation."

IOM and the Migration Department are launching the new Center with a nationwide promotion campaign. With funding from the European Union, IOM has produced a 4-minute music video, "Undeva," by the rock band The Snails about a young girl who dreams of going abroad. Also with EU funding, IOM has created a 30-second public service announcement based on the video that promotes the hotline and website.

The EU and the US Government are funding the campaign. Moldova National Television and Radio is the summer campaign's official media sponsor and will air the 30-second spot free of charge five times per day throughout July and will feature the "Undeva" video. Other sponsors include local radio and television stations, Patria Cinemas and Sun Communications.

For more information contact, IOM Chisinau, Tel: 373.22.23 29 40 E-mail iomchisinau@iom.int. END TEXT.

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